SURAH OF AL-LAYL

THE RESEARCH:
SURAH OF
AL-LAYL

RESEARCHER: HEBA
MUHAMED SALEH
THE E-MAIL:
hebamhgh@gmail.com

THE CONTENT

- THE REFERENCES
- THE BACKGROUND
  - ✓ Themes and purpose:
  - ✓ Context of Revelation:
    - o Era
    - o Context
    - o Chronology
  - Name and Ayah Count
  - Surah Overview
- THE AYAT IN DETAILS
- THE EXERCISES

THE REFERENCES

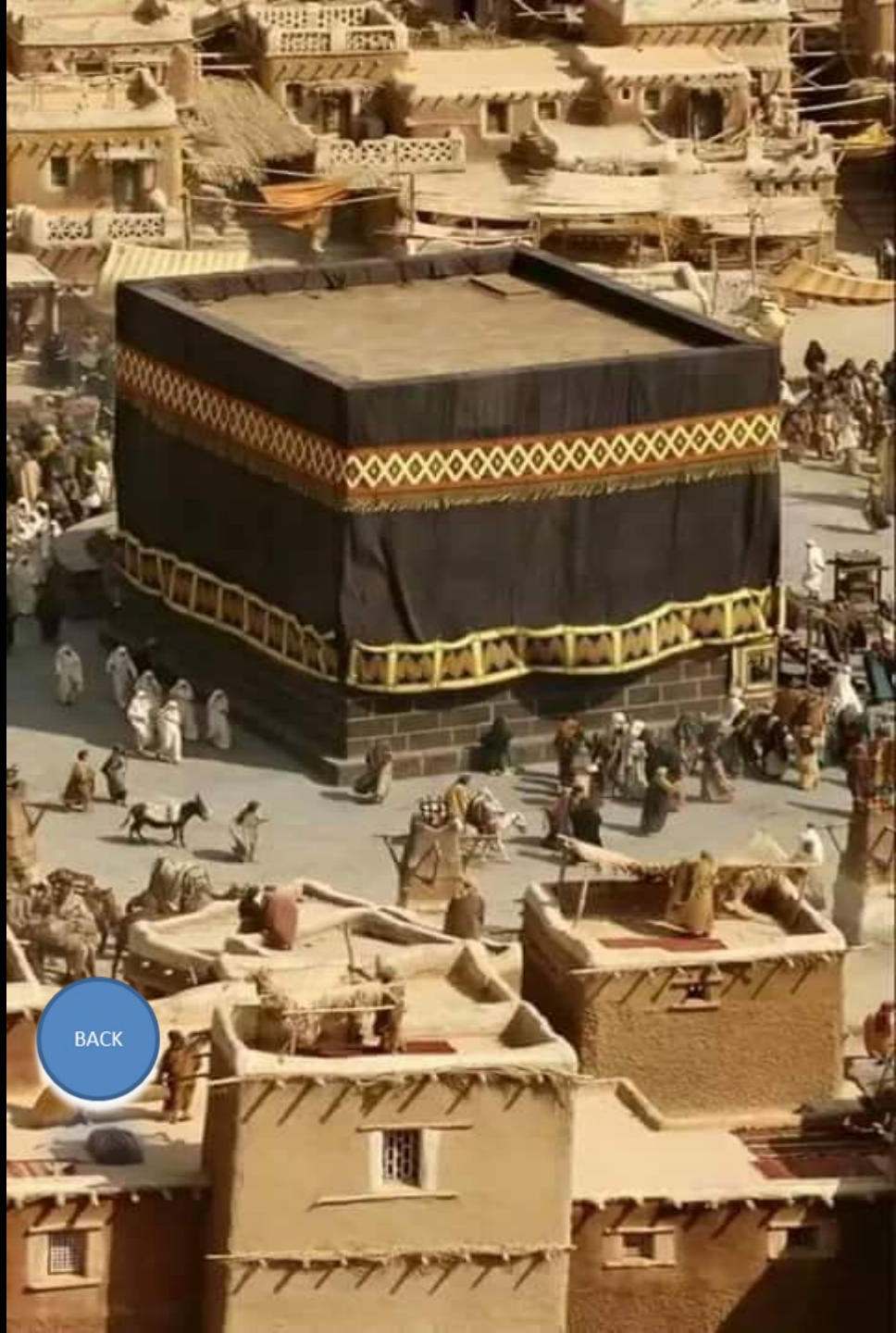
1) https://quran.com/surah/al-layl/info

2) https://quran.com/92

THE BACKGROUND 1

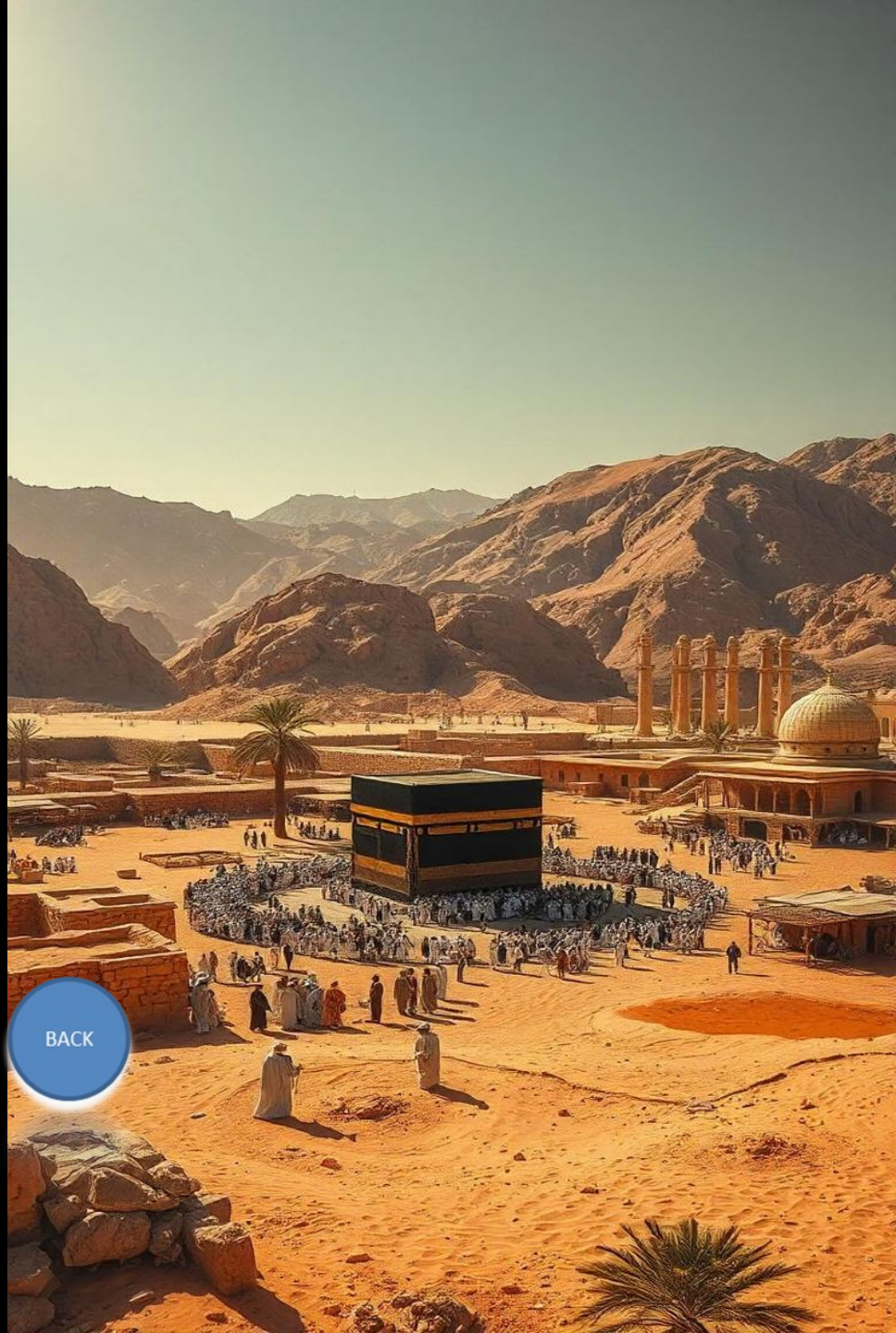
Themes and purpose:

- This Makkan surah opens with cosmic oaths to affirm that human efforts are divided into two contrary types, leading to two distinct fates. Its purpose is to contrast the virtues and easy path of the charitable, God-fearing believer with the vices and difficult path of the miserly disbeliever, affirming that the ultimate guidance belongs to Allah.



Context of Revelation:

- Era: Makkan according to consensus.
- Context: The surah addresses the early conflict between the generous believers and the miserly polytheists.
- Chronology: It is counted as the ninth surah in the order of revelation, revealed after Sūrat al-Aʿlā and before al-Fajr.



Name and Ayah Count:

- Name: The surah is known as "Sūrat al-Layl" (The Night), and also "Wa-al-layl" and "Wa-l-layli idhā yaghshā" (By the Night when it covers), all based on its opening oath.
- Ayah Count: 20 ayahs by consensus.

Surah Overview:

- The Two Paths: Affirming that human effort is divided into two contrary types, giving/piety and stinginess/denial each leading to a contrasting fate. [4-10]
- Establishing that Allah guides people to what is good and that the reward for the pious is the easiest path to Heaven. [7, 12, 18-21]

- Warning that the stingy and those who deny the Hereafter will be led to the most difficult path and the great Fire. [10-15]
- Spiritual Accountability: Emphasizing that wealth and possessions cannot save a miserly person from the Fire. [11]
- Consoling the Prophet (ﷺ) and establishing that Allah sent him as a reminder for those who fear (and choose to be guided). [17, 21]
- Including a final promise that the true reward of the pious is not to repay any favor but to seek the countenance of their Lord, the Most High. [20-21]

THE AYAT IN DETAILS 2

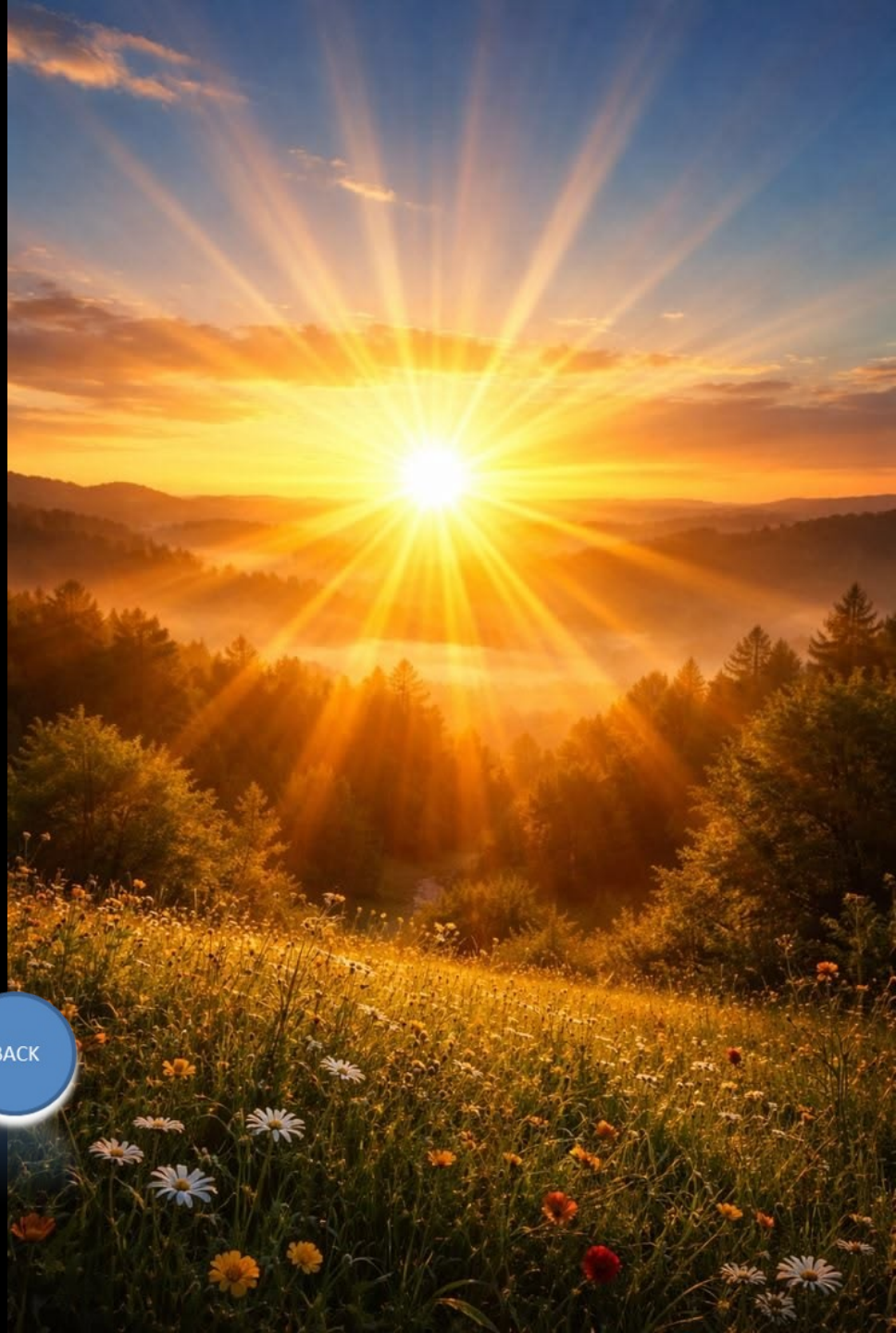
وَٱلَّيۡلِ إِذَا يَغۡشَىٰ ١

By the night when it covers,

BACK

وَٱلنَّهَارِ إِذَا تَجَلَّىٰ ٢

and the day
when it shines!



BACK

وَمَا خَلَقَ الذَّكَرَ وَالْأُنثَىٰ ﴿٣﴾

And by the One Who created male and female!

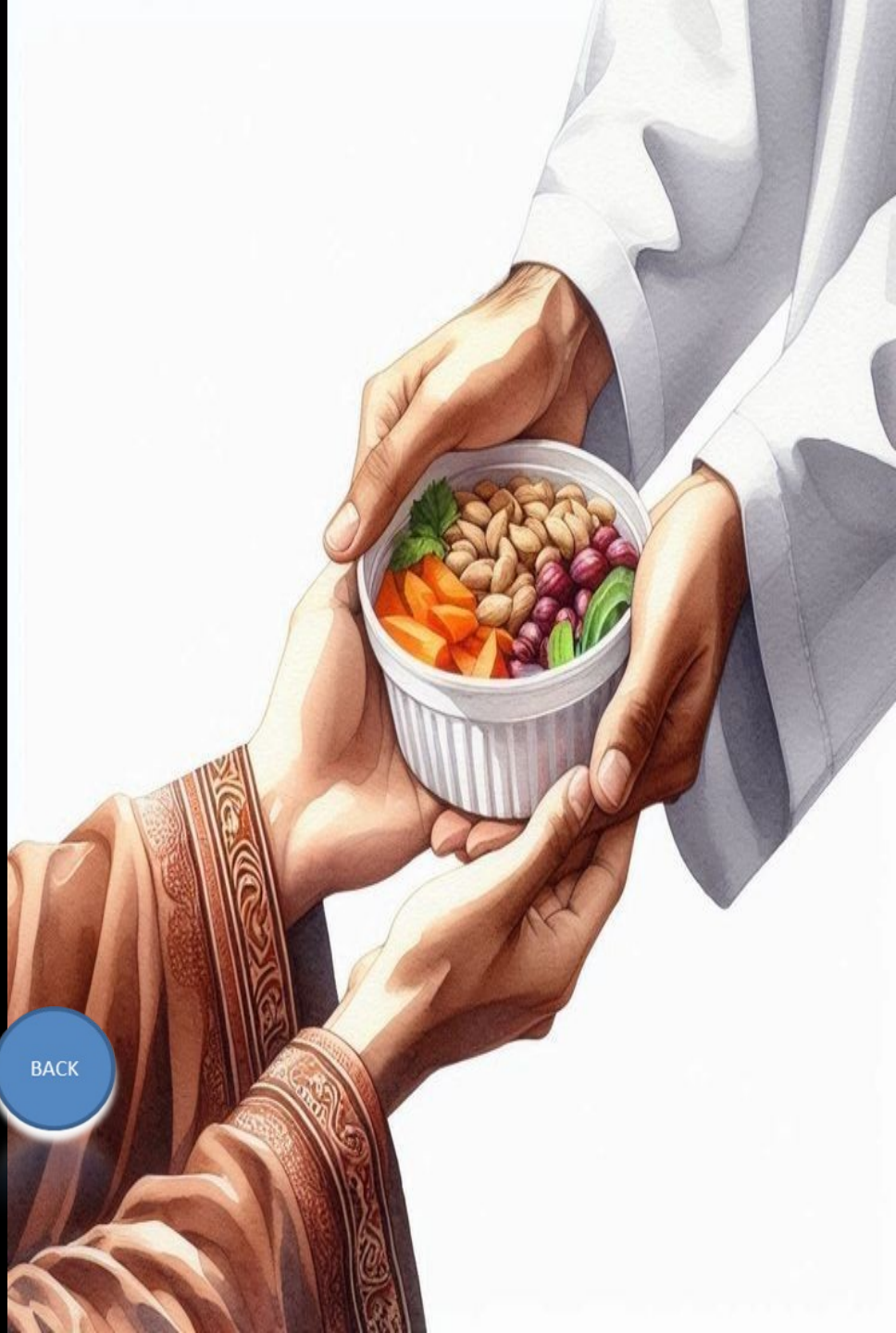
BACK

إِنَّ سَعْيَكُمْ لَشَتَّىٰ ﴿٤﴾

Surely the ends you strive for are diverse.

فَأَمَّا مَنْ أَعْطَىٰ وَٱتَّقَىٰ ۝٥

As for the one who is charitable, mindful of Allah,



وَصَدَّقَ بِالْحُسْنَىٰ ٦

and [firmly] believes in the finest reward,

فَسَنُيَسِّرُهُۥ لِلۡيُسۡرَىٰ ٧

We will facilitate for them the Way of Ease.

وَأَمَّا مَنۢ بَخِلَ وَٱسۡتَغۡنَىٰ ٨

And as for the one who is stingy, indifferent to Allah,

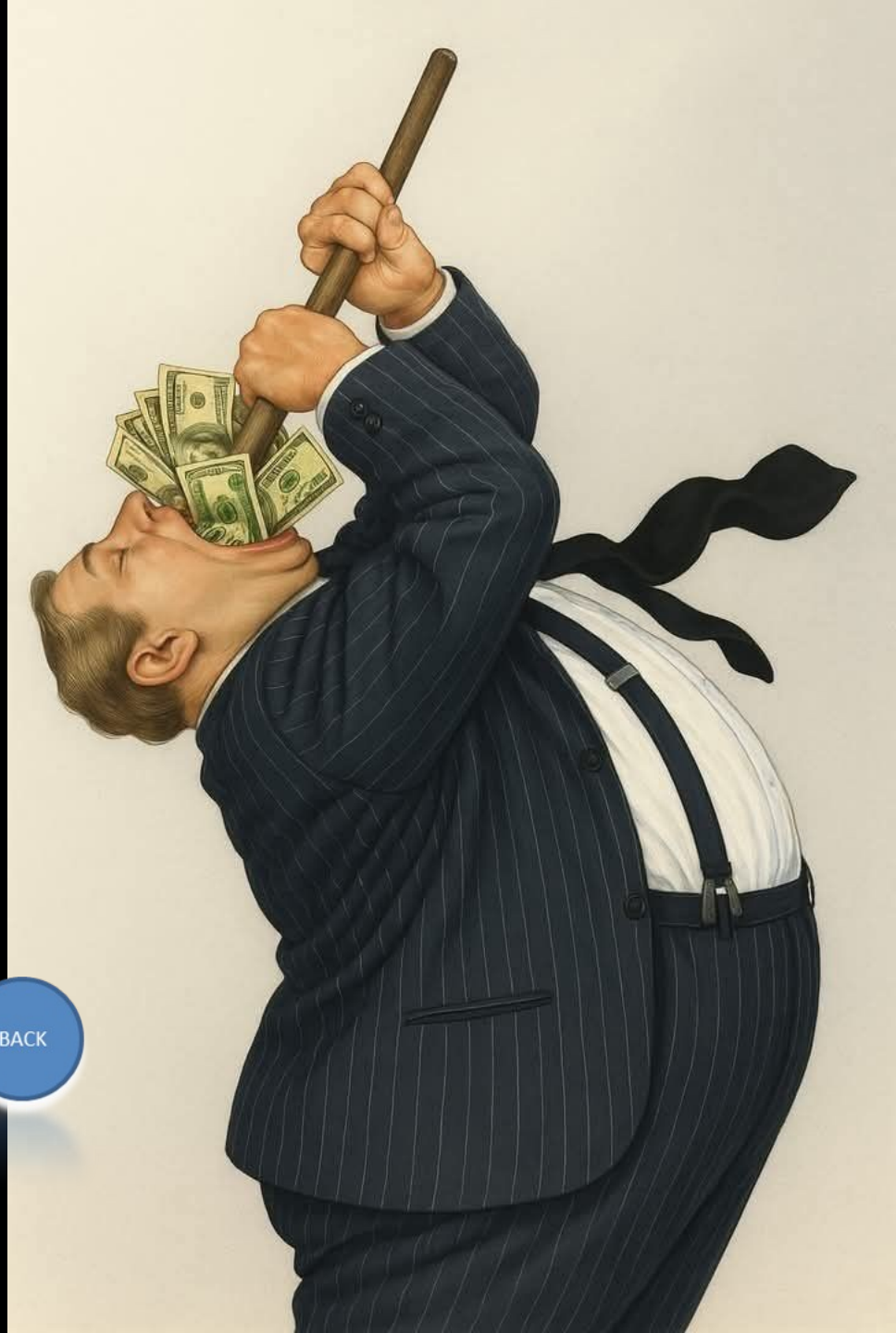
BACK

وَكَذَّبَ بِالْحُسْنَىٰ ٩

and
[staunchly]
denies the
finest reward,

فَسَنُيَسِّرُهُۥ لِلۡعُسۡرَىٰ ١٠

We will facilitate for them the path of hardship.



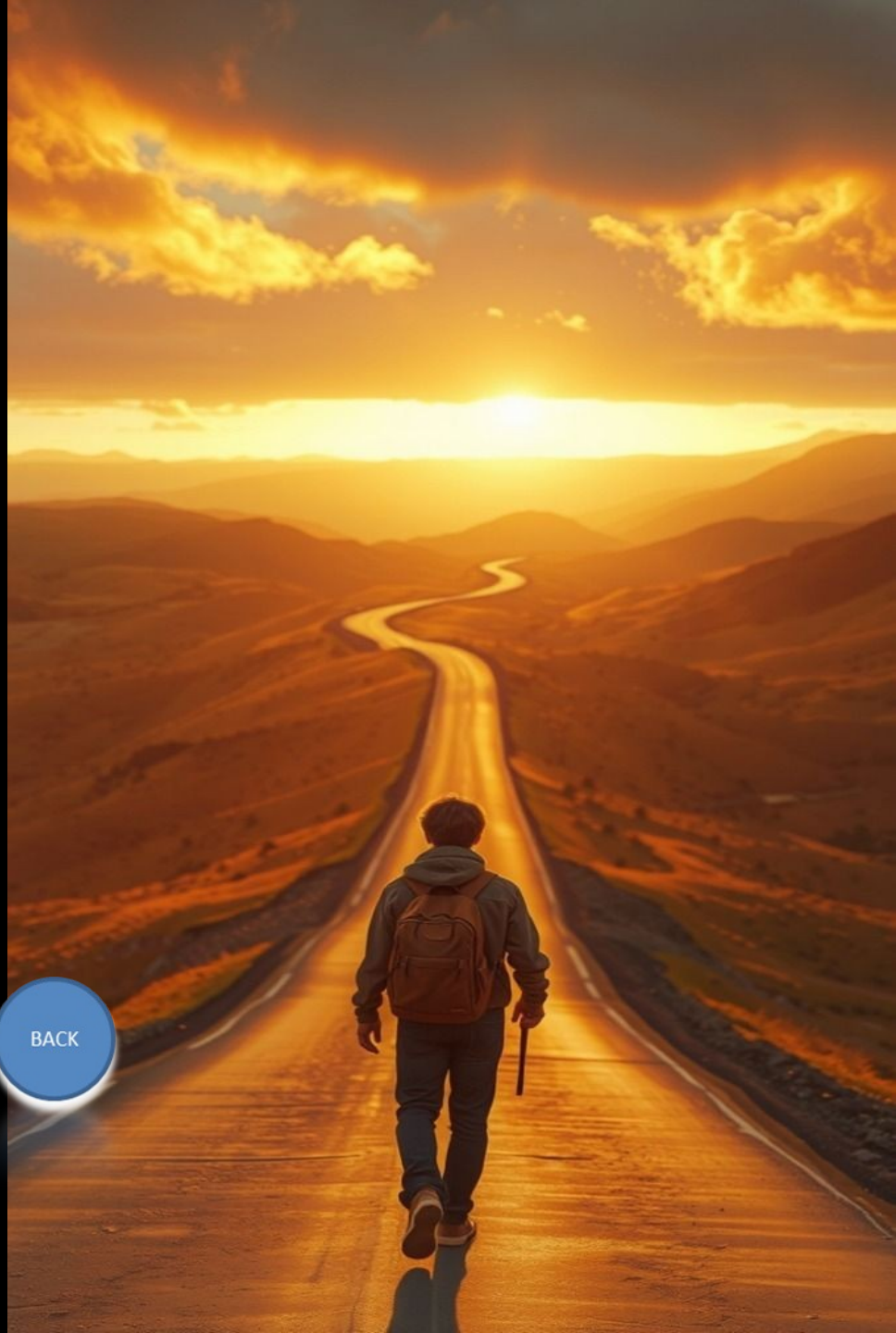
BACK

وَمَا يُغْنِي عَنْهُ مَالُهُۥٓ إِذَا تَرَدَّىٰٓ ﴿١١﴾

And their wealth will be of no benefit to them when they tumble into Hell.

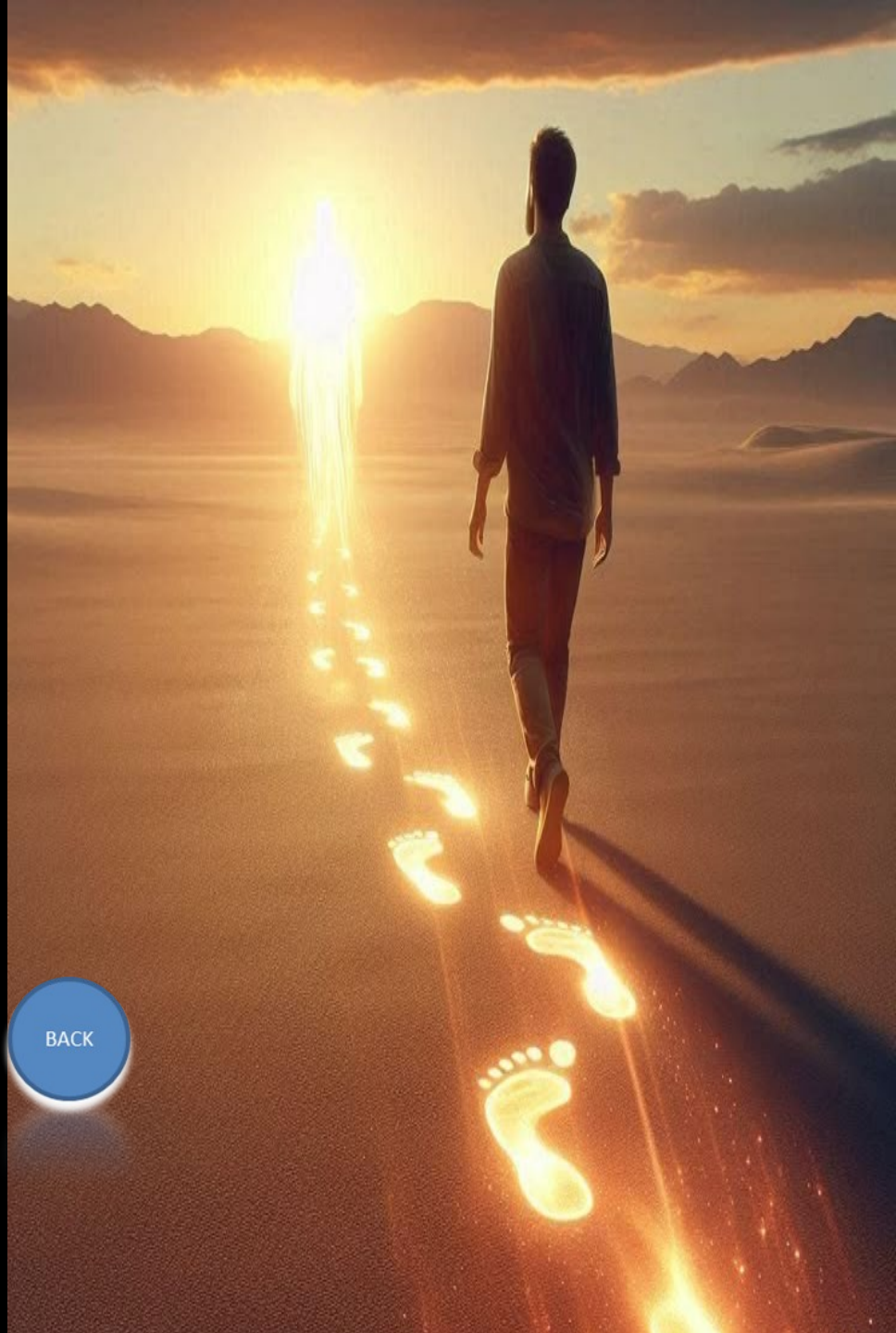
فَسَنُيَسِّرُهُۥ لِلۡعُسۡرَىٰ ١٠ وَمَا يُغۡنِي عَنۡهُ مَالُهُۥٓ إِذَا تَرَدَّىٰٓ ١١ إِنَّ عَلَيۡنَا
لَلۡهُدَىٰ ١٢ وَإِنَّ لَنَا لَلۡأٓخِرَةَ وَٱلۡأُولَىٰ ١٣ فَأَنذَرۡتُكُمۡ نَارٗا تَلَظَّىٰ ١٤

It is certainly upon Us alone to show the way to guidance.



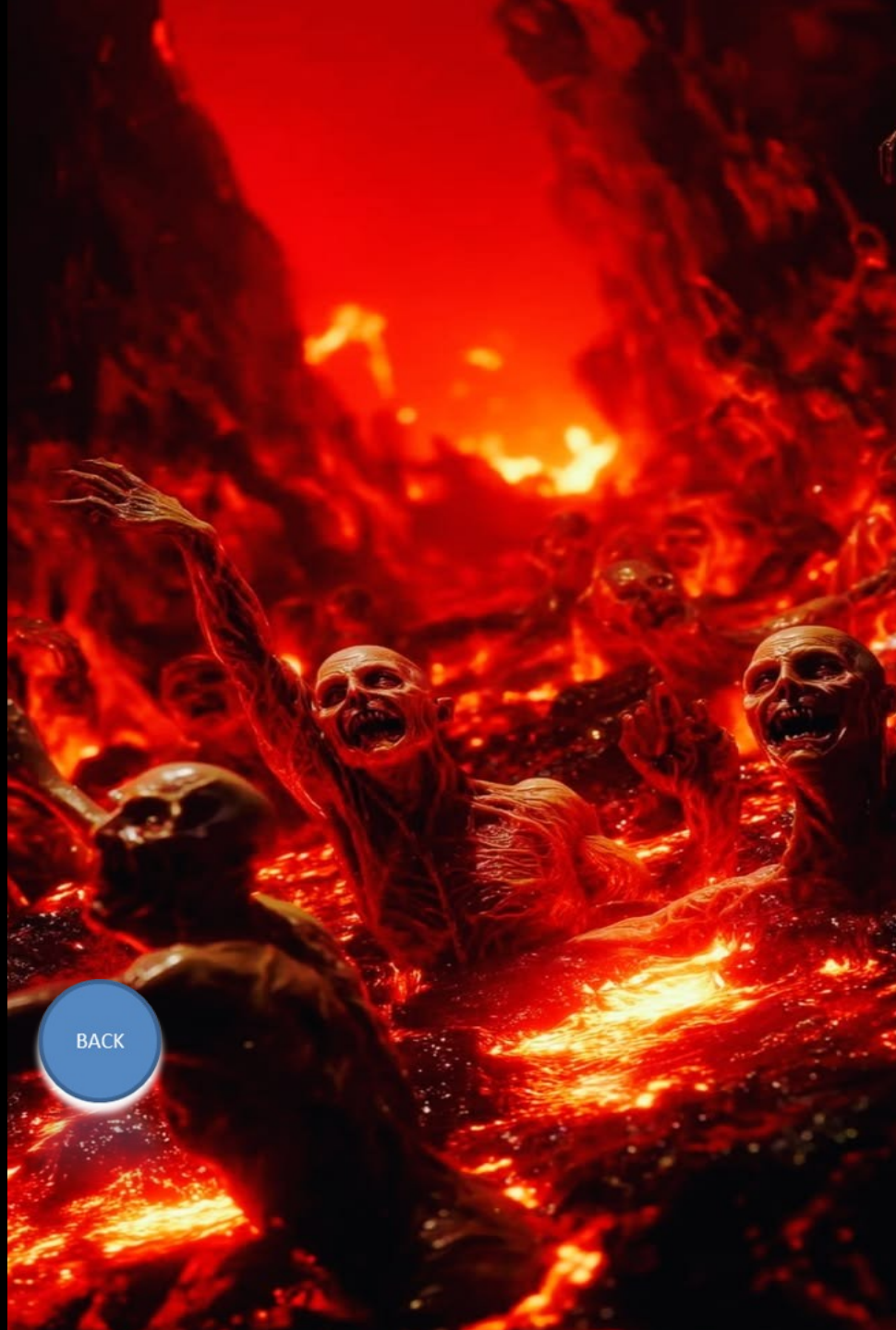
وَإِنَّ لَنَا لَلْآخِرَةَ وَالْأُولَىٰ ﴿١٣﴾

And surely to Us [alone] belong this life and the next.



فَأَنذَرْتُكُمْ نَارًا تَلَظَّىٰ ﴿١٤﴾

And so I have warned you of a raging Fire,



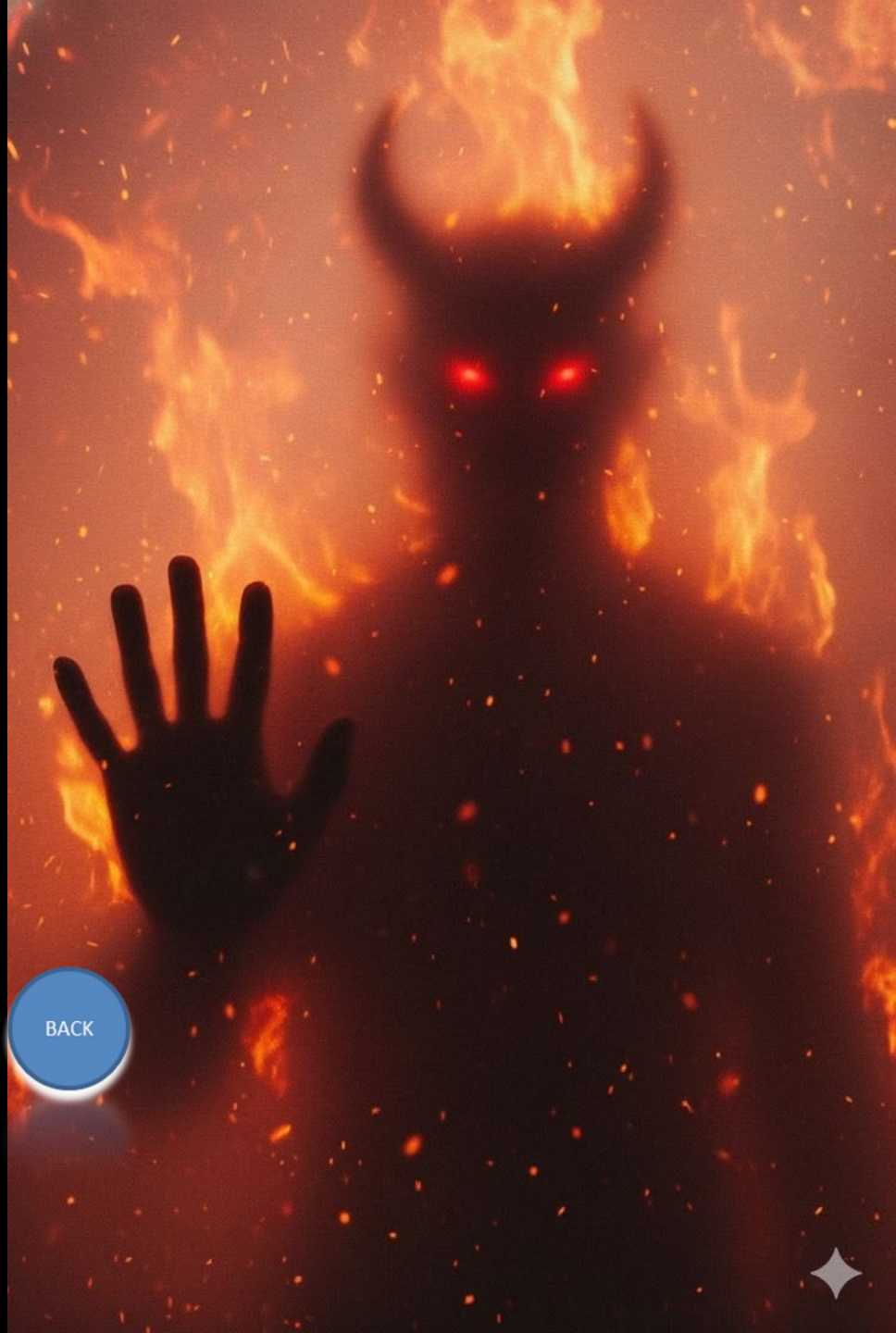
لَا يَصْلَىٰهَآ إِلَّا ٱلْأَشْقَى ﴿١٥﴾

in which none
will burn
except the
most wretched
—

BACK

الَّذِي كَذَّبَ وَتَوَلَّىٰ ﴿١٦﴾

who deny and turn away.



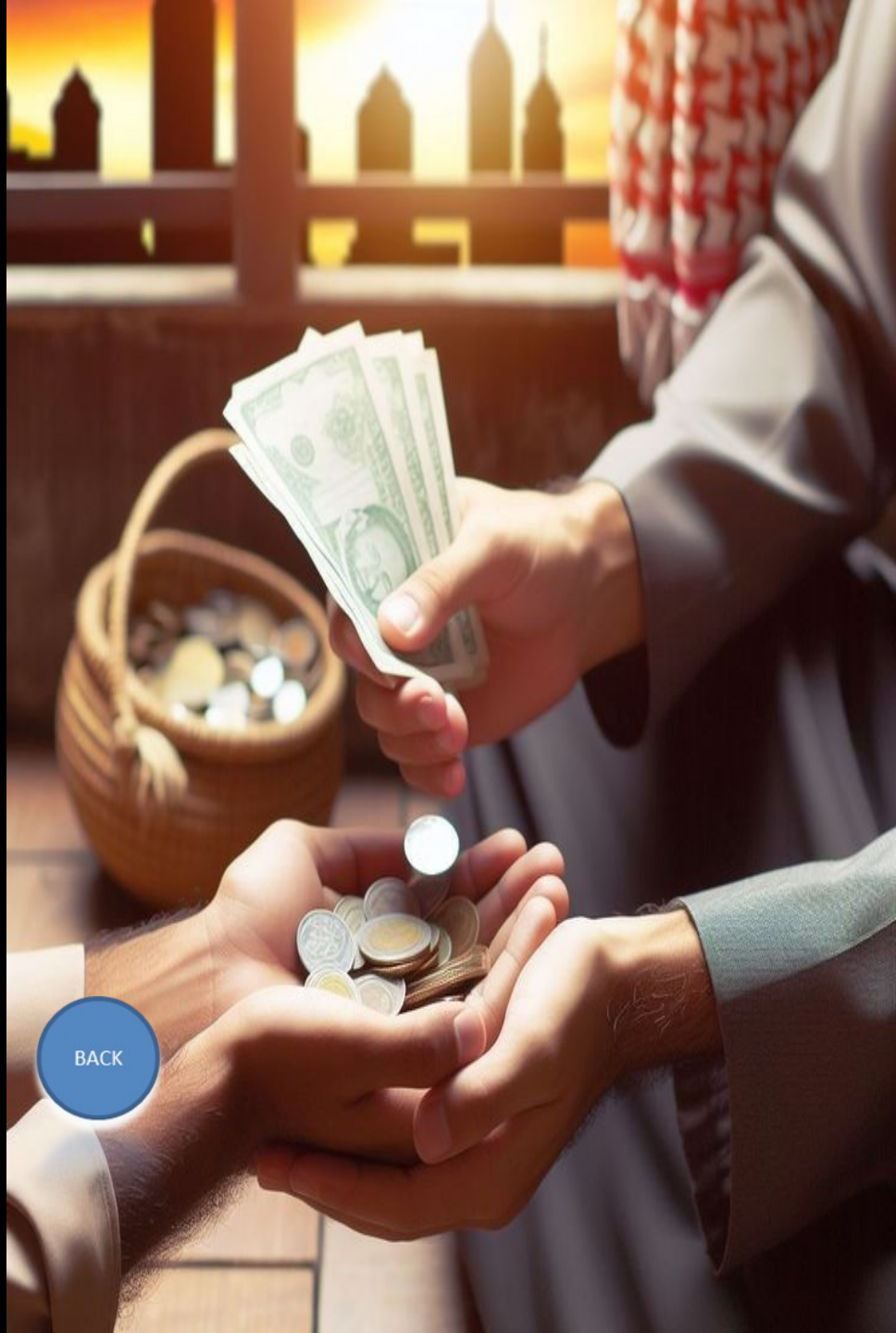
لَا يَصْلَىٰهَآ إِلَّا ٱلْأَشْقَى ﴿١٥﴾ ٱلَّذِى كَذَّبَ وَتَوَلَّىٰ ﴿١٦﴾ وَسَيُجَنَّبُهَا
ٱلْأَتْقَى ﴿١٧﴾ ٱلَّذِى يُؤْتِى مَالَهُۥ يَتَزَكَّىٰ ﴿١٨﴾ وَمَا لِأَحَدٍ عِندَهُۥ مِن نِّعْمَةٍ

But the righteous will be spared from it—

BACK

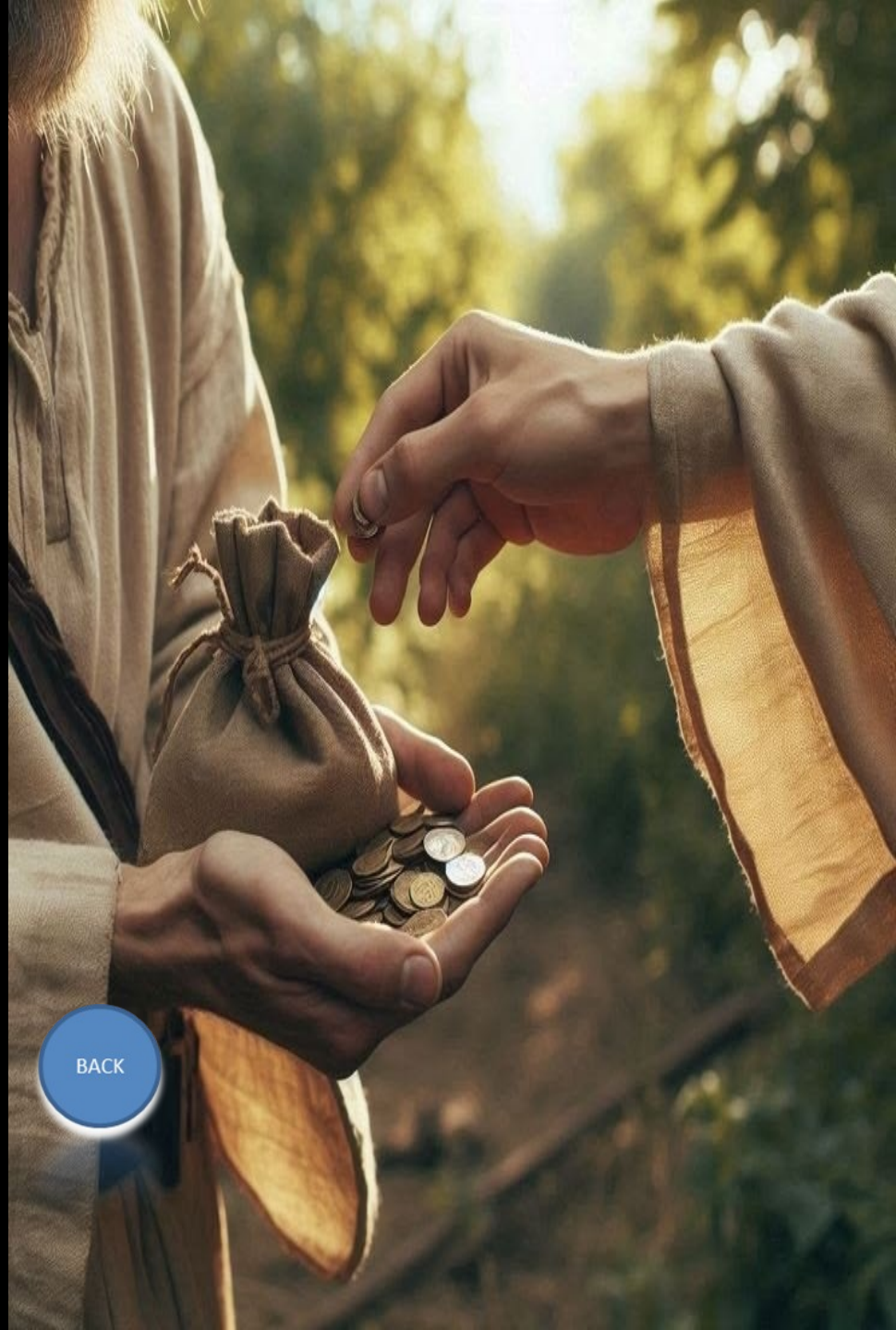
ٱلَّذِى يُؤۡتِى مَالَهُۥ يَتَزَكَّىٰ ١٨

who donate
some of
their wealth
only to purify
themselves,



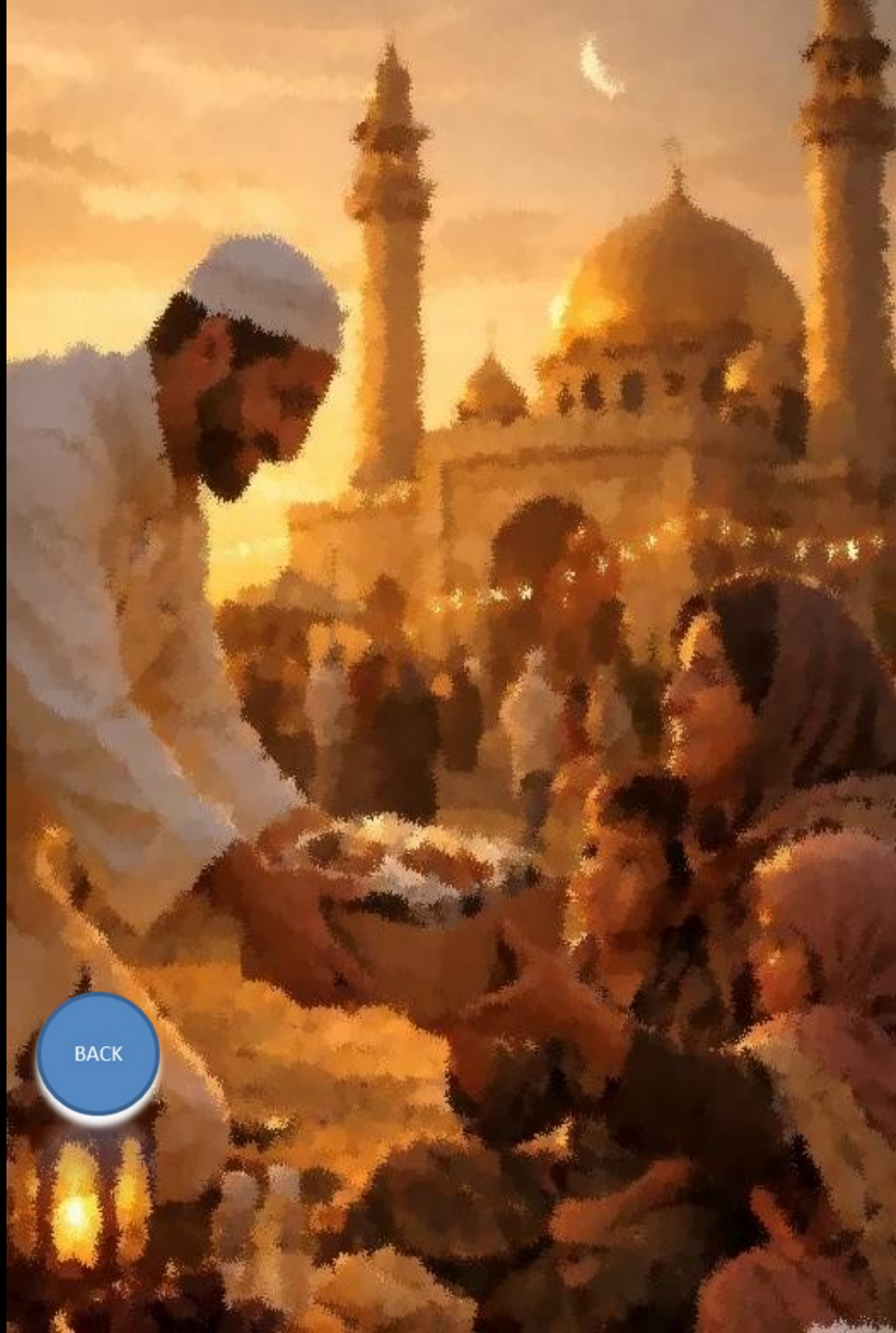
ٱلْأَتْقَى ﴿١٧﴾ ٱلَّذِى يُؤْتِى مَالَهُۥ يَتَزَكَّىٰ ﴿١٨﴾ وَمَا لِأَحَدٍ عِندَهُۥ مِن نِّعْمَةٍ
تُجْزَىٰٓ ﴿١٩﴾ إِلَّا ٱبْتِغَآءَ وَجْهِ رَبِّهِ ٱلْأَعْلَىٰ ﴿٢٠﴾ وَلَسَوْفَ يَرْضَىٰ ﴿٢١﴾

not in return for someone's favours,



إِلَّا ٱبْتِغَآءَ وَجْهِ رَبِّهِ ٱلْأَعْلَىٰ ﴿٢٠﴾

but seeking the pleasure of their Lord, the Most High.



وَلَسَوْفَ يَرْضَىٰ ﴿٢١﴾

They will certainly be pleased.

EXCERCISES

BACK

1. Remembering (Recall)

1) What are the three things Allah swears by at the beginning of the surah?
2) What contrast is mentioned between male and female?
3) What are the two different paths described in the surah?
4) Who is described as giving and fearing Allah?
5) What is the fate of the one who is stingy and denies the truth?

2. Understanding (Comprehension)

1) What does “your efforts are diverse” mean?
2) Explain the characteristics of the righteous person mentioned in the surah.
3) What is meant by “We will ease him toward ease”?
4) Describe the opposite type of person mentioned in the surah.
5) What message is conveyed through the contrast between night and day?

3. Applying

1) How can a person practice generosity in daily life?
2) What actions show true consciousness of Allah (taqwa)?
3) How can someone avoid becoming among those who deny the truth?
4) Give examples of choices that lead a person toward “ease” or “hardship.”
5) How can this surah guide your behavior toward others?

4. Analyzing

1) Why does the surah begin with oaths related to opposites (night/day, male/female)?
2) Compare the two types of people described in the surah.
3) What is the relationship between belief, actions, and consequences in this surah?
4) How does the structure of the surah emphasize its main message?
5) Analyze how the concept of “ease” and “difficulty” is presented.

5. Evaluating

1) Why is generosity linked with righteousness in this surah?
2) Do you think wealth can influence a person's path? Why or why not?
3) Which quality is more important: belief or action? Support your answer from the surah.
4) Why is arrogance or self-sufficiency dangerous according to the surah?
5) How relevant are the lessons of this surah in today's society?

6. Creating (Higher-Order Thinking)

1) Write a short reflection on the importance of choosing the right path.
2) Create a comparison chart between the two types of people in the surah.
3) Design a personal action plan to be among those “given ease.”
4) Write a short story illustrating the consequences of generosity vs. stinginess.
5) Prepare a short speech encouraging others to follow the path of righteousness described in the surah.

و الحمد لله رب العالمين